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4. The figure for year-end 1958 cited by Chandrasekhar is consistent with four other recent statements:

    a. The 23 February 1959 issue of <u>Chi'hua yu t'ung-chi</u>, the official organ of the State Planning Commission and the State Statistical Bureau, gives the population as 670 million /State, Hong Kong. <u>Extracts from China Mainland Magazines</u>, No. 172, 15 Jul 59, p. 33/.

    b. On 3 February 1959, Ch'en Yi stated that China had a population of 680 million /<u>New York Times</u>, 5 Feb 59/.

    c. On 23 February 1959, W. E. B. Dubois referred to the population of China as 680 million /FBIS. <u>Daily Report</u> (Far East), 25 Feb 59, p. AAA 7-10. OFF USE/.

    d. Two Hungarian correspondants who recently returned from Peking cite a figure of 680 million as the population of China /British Legation, Budapest, <u>Hungarian Press Summary</u>, no. 227, p. 9/.

5. The available evidence indicates that China is revising its population estimates upward on the basis of new data. The most likely sources of these data are two types of information collected in connection with the commune movement during the latter half of 1958: (1) revised totals of the number of rural households, and (2) a series of local sample studies of income and consumption which include figures on the number of persons per household. As the commune movement progressed, the State Statistical Bureau apparently found more rural households than had been anticipated. In September 124 million rural households were reported /State, Hong Kong, <u>Extracts from China Mainland Magazines</u>, No. 145, 1 Dec 55, p. 41/, but by November the number had risen to 128 million /FBIS, <u>Daily Report</u> (Far East), 7 Jan 59, p. BBB 10. OFF USE/. In addition to these revised estimates of the total number of rural households the Chinese have also published figures on the number of households and the average size of households in a number of individual communes.

6. With this new information, we have obtained an estimate of the rural population for year-end 1958 by multiplying the latest figure for the number of households (128 million) by the average size of household (4.48) derived from reports on 40 communes with 2 million inhabitants. The estimate for the rural population thus obtained (573 million) when added to the official Chinese estimate for the urban population (100 million) /FDD. <u>Weekly Report</u>, no. 2, 27 Nov 59, p. 4/ yields a figure for the total population of 673 million.

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7. For these reasons, the year-end 1958 population of 673 million cited by Chandrasekhar in China's Population has been accepted. The figures for 1957 and earlier years however, were rejected for the reasons outlined in CSM 46/59, 25 Aug 59 (C).

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